

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-04 /063 W

----- 074102

R 220925Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7460

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 656

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BLANTYRE 1380

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, MZ, PO

SUBJ: MALAWI BLAMES PORTUGAL FOR CONFUSION IN MOZAMBIQUE

AND LIES ABOUT BANDA REGIME

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

REF: A. LOURENCO MARQUES 0912

B. BLANTYRE A-79 10/21/74

1. GOM-CONTROLLED DAILY TIMES ON OCTOBER 22 FEATURED EDITORIAL SCORING "SUPERCILIOUS PORTUGUESE" FOR DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO LEAVE MOZAMBIQUE IN CHAOTIC STATE. TIMES ACCUSED PORTUGUESE OF TAMPERING WITH FOOD RESERVES AND SAID RECENT RUMORS OF FOOD POISONING AND WHITE MERCENARY INVASIONS (BY IMPLICATION ACTS OF PORTUGUESE) "NO DOUBT CALCULATED TO CAUSE CONFUSION."

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EDITORIAL NOTED PORTUGUESE EARLIER HAD ATTEMPTED TO DISCREDIT

MALAWI FOR PURPOSE OF FOMENTING TROUBLE BETWEEN MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLES. PRESIDENT BANDA BRANDED ALL SUCH PORTUGUESE ASSERTIONS AS UNVARNISHED LIES.

2. COMMENT: IN RECENT WEEKS PRESIDENT BANDA HAS ABANDONED HIS EARLIER HOPE THAT A UNITED FRONT OF LIBERATION GROUPS MIGHT COME TO POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE, AS WELL AS HOPE THAT THROUGH JORGE JARDIM BANDA MIGHT DEVELOP INFLUENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE AFFAIRS. INSTEAD, BANDA NOW HAS RECOGNIZED NEED TO DEAL WITH AND IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH FRELIMO. TO THIS END PARTY-CONTROLLED MALAWI MEDIA HAVE EMBARKED ON DRUMFIRE CAMPAIGN EMPHASIZING "TRADITIONAL" RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MALAWI AND FRELIMO AND BETWEEN PEOPLE OF TWO COUNTRIES AND EMPHASIZING MOZAMBIQUE'S NEED FOR MALAWI ASSISTANCE. TO CAMPAIGN HAS NOW BEEN ADDED ANTI-PORTUGUESE ELEMENT, POSSIBLY IN ATTEMPT TO OFFSET ATTACKS ON PRESIDENT BANDA WHICH HAVE BEEN APPEARING IN BEIRA PRESS (REF A) BY PLACING BLAME ON PORTUGUESE. FURTHER DETAILS RE THIS TREND IN BANDA'S APPROACH ON MOZAMBIQUE WERE POUCHED ADDRESSEES BY REF B OCT 21.
STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BLANTY01380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740300-0887
From: BLANTYRE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741028/aaaaaxsb.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. LOURENCO MARQUES 0912
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAWI BLAMES PROTUGAL FOR CONFUSION IN MOZAMBIQUE AND LIES ABOUT BANDA REGIME
TAGS: PFOR, MI, MZ, PO, (BANDA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005